



Response to your EPA Inquiry
Larry Stanton to: soulsendlessknot
Sent by: **Patrick Easter**
Bcc: Ruby Capers

01/23/2012 12:56 PM

James King
Seattle, WA

Dear Mr. King,

Thank you for your December 25, 2011 email letter to US EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. You raised a number of concerns about Corexit and the use of dispersants on oil spills, including the Deepwater Horizon spill in 2010. I am pleased to respond on her behalf.

For the facts associated with dispersants used on the Deepwater Horizon spill, I suggest you check out <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/> and click on "Dispersants" for the details. EPA conducted a battery of toxicity tests on dispersants and oils. In addition, EPA collected thousands of air and water samples; the results of this comprehensive monitoring effort are provided on this website.

Note that regulations governing toxicity and efficacy testing, listing and use of dispersants are already in place in Subpart J of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP). However, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is in the process of revising these requirements. We are evaluating new toxicity tests and listing criteria, chemical component disclosure, and the requirements governing appropriate use of dispersants on oil spills. The rulemaking process takes time not only to investigate the science and technical issues such as those you raised in your letter but to use that science to inform the policies used to revise the regulation. EPA expects to publish the proposed revisions to Subpart J for public review and comment Summer 2012.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any questions about the Subpart J rulemaking, you are welcome to contact Craig Matthiessen, Director of OEM's Regulation and Policy Development Division at 202-564-8016.

Sincerely,
Lawrence M. Stanton, Director
Office of Emergency Management